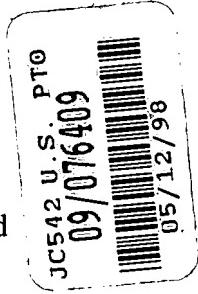


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jay S. Walker, et al.)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
GENERATING A COUPON)
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date: May 12, 1998) Docket No.: WD2-97-563



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a thorough search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Nor shall the filing of this information disclosure statement be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed below and on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider these items and to independently ascertain their teaching:

- A. U.S. Patent No. 4,723,212 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING DISCOUNT COUPONS" issued to Thomas Mindrum et al. on February 2, 1988.
- B. U.S. Patent No. 4,908,761 entitled "SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING HEAVY PRODUCT PURCHASERS WHO REGULARLY USE MANUFACTURERS' PURCHASE INCENTIVES AND PREDICTING CONSUMER PROMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR RESPONSE PATTERNS" issued to Roland Tai on March 13, 1990.
- C. U.S. Patent No. 4,910,672 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING DISCOUNT COUPONS" issued to George W. Off et al. on March 20, 1990.
- D. U.S. Patent No. 5,056,019 entitled "AUTOMATED PURCHASE REWARD ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND METHOD" issued to John Schultz et al. on October 8, 1991.
- E. U.S. Patent No. 5,128,862 entitled "CUSTOMER OPERABLE SYSTEM FOR A RETAIL STORE OR FAST-FOOD RESTAURANT HAVING PLURAL ORDERING STATIONS" issued to Raymond J. Mueller on July 7, 1992.
- F. U.S. Patent No. 5,173,851 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING DISCOUNT COUPONS IN RESPONSE TO THE PURCHASE OF ONE OR MORE PRODUCTS" issued to George W. Off et al. on December 22, 1992.
- G. U.S. Patent No. 5,287,268 entitled "CENTRALIZED CONSUMER CASH VALUE ACCUMULATION SYSTEM FOR MULTIPLE MERCHANTS" issued to Patrick D. McCarthy on February 15, 1994.
- H. U.S. Patent No. 5,302,811 entitled "A POINT OF SALE APPARATUS INCLUDING A DEPOSITING/WITHDRAWING APPARATUS" issued to Kunio Fukatsu on April 12, 1994.
- I. U.S. Patent No. 5,353,219 entitled "SUGGESTIVE SELLING IN A CUSTOMER SELF-ORDERING SYSTEM" issued to Raymond J. Mueller et al. on October 4, 1994.
- J. U.S. Patent No. 5,420,606 entitled "INSTANT ELECTRONIC COUPON VERIFICATION SYSTEM" issued to Paul G. Begum et al. on May 30, 1995.
- K. U.S. Patent No. 5,459,306 entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING ON DEMAND, INDIVIDUALLY TARGETED PROMOTIONS" issued to Buddy Stein et al. on October 17, 1995.

- L. "Cape Town", Reuters, November 8, 1979.
- M. Jan Greene, "Farm Bills Please Assns; National Grocers Association", Supermarket News, December 23, 1985 at p. 6.
- N. U.S. Patent No. 5,592,376 entitled "CURRENCY AND BARTER EXCHANGE DEBIT CARD AND SYSTEM" issued to Joel Hodroff on January 7, 1997.
- O. U.S. Patent No. 5,612,868 entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING DISCOUNT COUPONS" issued to George w. Off et al. on March 18, 1997.
- P. U.S. Patent No. 5,620,079 entitled "COIN COUNTER/SORTER AND COUPON/VOUCHER DISPENSING MACHINE AND METHOD" issued to Jens H. Molbak on April 15, 1997.
- Q. U.S. Patent No. 5,621,640 entitled "AUTOMATIC PHILANTHROPIC CONTRIBUTION SYSTEM" issued to Bertram V. Burke on April 15, 1997.
- R. "POS Spectrum: A Lottery Looks to POS for Growth", POS News, January 1989 at p. 8.
- S. "Winn-Dixie/The Salvation Army Report Contributions for War Against Hunger", PR Newswire, June 10, 1993.
- T. Jeanne Jones, "Data Readers Streamline Management; Scanner Technology Aids Retailers As Well As Plants, Wholesalers", The Houston Post, June 26, 1994 at p. D1.
- U. Jim Knippenberg, "Psst! Will Local Radio Empires Strike Back?", The Cincinnati Enquirer, July 23, 1995 at p. F01.
- V. Kimberly Hadley, "Pastors Praying Anti-Arson Effort Will Burn Bias", The Nashville Banner, July 26, 1996 at p. A13.
- W. :Products and Services", Catalina Marketing Corporation (<http://www.catalinamktg.com/procdir.htm>), download date: May 29, 1997.
- X. Teresa Riordan, "Funneling Change to Useful Pursuits", The New York Times, June 9, 1997 at p. D2.

1. [] Any copy of the items listed above and on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in the prior [] Continuation, [] Divisional or [] Continuation in part application filed under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.53 or 1.60, U.S. Serial No. _____, filed _____.
2. [] For each of the following items listed above and on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application is enclosed. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
3. [] For each of the following items listed above and on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
4. [] In addition to the citations listed above, applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the following U.S. patent applications, which are commonly assigned to the assignee of the instant application, and which may be deemed pertinent to the instant application:

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Inventors</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group Art Unit</u>
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The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider and independently ascertain the teachings and relevance of those applications with respect to the instant application. These applications have not been listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 in order to preserve their secrecy during the course of their prosecution.

5. [X] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
 - [X] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.
 - [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491.
 - [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
6. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 5 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final

action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 10 below.

7. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 5 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action). The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is to be paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
8. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 10 below; and
 - b. the attached petition requesting consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement; and
 - c. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
9. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- [] 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue;
 - [] 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue.
 - [] The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
10. [] I hereby certify:

- [] that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to

the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of such communication is enclosed.

- [] that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

11. [] Please accept payment of the fees due as indicated below:

- [] A check in the amount of \$240.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).
- [] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$240.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached for such purpose
- [] A check in the amount of \$130.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1).
- [] The Commissioner is authorized to charge \$130.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1). A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

12. [X] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 12, 1998
Date